

Claims

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1. A method for treating hypertension or for reducing or preventing development of elevated blood pressure which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of secoisolariciresinol diglucoside (SDG) in substantially pure form.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the SDG is obtained from flaxseed.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the SDG has a purity of at least 95%.

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4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the SDG is administered in an amount of 10-30 mg/kg of body weight in a normotensive patient.

5. A method according to claim 3 wherein the SDG is administered in an amount of 1-15 mg/kg of body weight in a hypertensive patient.

6. A method for treating ischemic heart disease which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of SDG in substantially pure form.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the SDG is obtained from flaxseed.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the SDG has a purity of at least 95%.

9. A method for treating heart failure which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of SDG in substantially pure form.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the SDG is obtained from flaxseed.

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein the SDG has a purity of at least 95%.

12. A method for treating intermittent claudication which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount  
5 of SDG in substantially pure form.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the SDG is obtained from flaxseed.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein the SDG has a purity of at least 95%.

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